

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1 and 3 to 28, the independent claims being Claims 1, 12, 18 to 22 and 26. Claim 2 has been cancelled herein. Claims 1 and 3 to 28 have been amended herein.

In the Official Action dated September 5, 2003, Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite, and Claims 1 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,821,997 (Kawamura). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The formal rejection and the rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claim 2 has been cancelled and Claims 1 and 3 to 28 have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

Each of independent Claims 1, 12, 18 to 22 and 26 generally recites the feature of compression-encoding input image data, followed by decoding the compression-encoded image data and selectively displaying the compression-encoded/decoded image data (e.g., prior to recording the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium); as disclosed in greater detail in the present application, the feature of (selectively) displaying the compression-encoded/decoded image data (Claims 1, 18, 20, 22), or displaying 'difference image data' between the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data (Claims 12, 19, 21, 26), prior to recording the compression-encoded image data, provides a significant improvement over prior art apparatuses and methods in that the operator can know with high

fidelity, at the time of image capture (prior to recording), the image data that later will be retrievable from the recording media.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Kawamura '997 patent relates to a still image recording apparatus which selectively compresses single image information at a first compression ratio and a second compression ratio and to decompress the compressed single image information displayed before main storage. However, Applicant submits that the Kawamura '997 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-described features of the present invention. Nowhere does the Kawamura '997 patent disclose or suggest a composing element of display means for selectively displaying the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by the decoding means, before the recording means records the compression encoded image data, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 1, 18, 20, 22). As discussed above, this aspect of the present invention enables an operator to easily compare, prior to the recording process, the difference between the input image data before compression/decompression processing and the compression-encoded/decoded image data, which ultimately will be retrievable from the recording medium after compression/decompression processing.

Nor does the Kawamura '997 patent disclose or suggest the composing element of displaying 'difference image data' between the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (Claims 12, 19, 21, 26). As discussed above, this aspect of the present invention also enables an operator to easily compare, prior to the recording process, the difference between the input image data before compression/decompression processing and the compression-encoded/decoded image data,

which ultimately will be retrievable from the recording medium after compression/decompression processing.

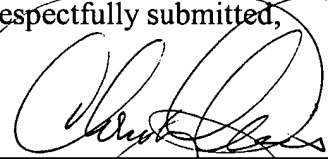
For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 12, 18 to 22 and 26 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 3 to 11, 13 to 17, 23 to 25, 27 and 28 depend from Claims 1, 12, 22 and 26, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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